



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 13 Mar 06

### Basic training goes old school

Web Posted: 03/11/2006 12:00 AM CST

**Sig Christenson**  
**Express-News Military Writer**

A red-faced Nathaniel Caldwell inches through the last 15 yards of sand on the low crawl course at Scorpion Air Base.

On the verge of exhaustion and at times barely moving, he makes it with the urging of Master Sgt. Robert Hembree, a 44-year-old former San Antonio cop, and his "wingman" Christopher Balltzglier, 20, of Macon, Ga.

As he stands, sand on his nose and chest rising and falling, Caldwell is asked if he'd like to crawl another 50 yards.

"I'm not sure," he says.

At this moment, basic training on Lackland AFB is plenty tough for Caldwell, 21, of Birmingham, Ala. But he and other airmen here know the worst is yet to come — and are thankful they won't be around for it.

The Air Force plans to add another two weeks to basic training. It will put more emphasis than ever on transforming would-be techno geeks into warriors, giving them rifles on the second day of boot camp.

Once dubbed the "Chair Force" for its lax physical conditioning standards, the service is evolving thanks to war in Iraq.

The Air Force is determined to close the cultural chasm between it and sister services that emphasize ground combat skills.

"It is sending a message," Gen. William R. Looney III, head of the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, said of the changes.



Jerry Lara/Express-News  
Airman Jarrell McBride takes part in basic training at Lackland AFB. As hard as it is, it's about to get worse.

"And the message to each and every one of them is now they have joined a combatant arm of the United States military and they are going to be combatants."

Iraq has many lessons, he said. One is the importance of cleaning M-16 rifles, something that cost Jessica Lynch's 507th Maintenance Company dearly at the outset of the war. Yet another is being prepared for ambushes and roadside bombs.



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 13 Mar 06

---

Career specialty isn't the first priority in Iraq's desert, Looney said, adding, "You are part of the fighting force and this is a whole new perspective for our Air Force. And therefore we've got to start with a whole new cultural perspective at BMT."

Basic military training is tougher than it once was. The Air Force's "Warrior Week," a test of war-fighting skills, began in 1999. It's now called FTX — Field Training Exercise — and comes at the 41/2-week point. A final field exam called "Culmination" is given at the end of FTX and stresses fundamentals.

Young boots here defend Scorpion Air Base, a training facility on Lackland AFB's Medina Annex, from the "enemy" — these days, insurgents. They provide first aid to one airman in a drill that tests their ability to treat victims of deadly nerve agents.

One trainee reads through a manual. They have to know which shots to give, and in what order, and they have to move quickly.

Recruits face an information dump when they come to Lackland, learning everything from combat buddy care to the Law of Land Warfare.

Airman Basic Manuel Herrera, 18, of Los Angeles said he froze when he spotted a passing insurgent.

"I saw him," he said. "I'm like trying to talk, but nothing will come out."

Herrera felt like he was having a panic attack. He couldn't use any of the information he'd learned.

Trainee Melissa Cortez, 19, of Atlantic City, N.J., was among several recruits who said 61/2 weeks is too short. "There's not enough time to process what you've learned because by the time you're done, you've got to go asleep," she explained.

Airman Basic Melissa Baab, 23, of Sugarcreek, Ohio, joked that the Air Force can toughen training all it wants after she leaves. But she knows its benefits.

"I walk straighter. I walk with a sense of urgency. It's a completely different outlook going on in my life, a lot more focused. I hate PT (physical training), but yet I love what it's doing to me, how it's strengthening me," she said.

Down the road from the tents and sandbags at Scorpion Air Base, Sgt. Michael Collins, 30, of Auburn, Ala., yells at recruits as they emerge from cover, rifles in hand, and climb over a barricade. Tape-recorded machine gun fire erupts in the distance.

"Let's go! Let's go! Let's go!" he cries. "Don't jump off it!"

Trainees Zachary Wallace, 21, of Bossier City, La., and Brian Guillory run, fall to the earth and take cover. They then charge a pair of dummies. Guillory drives the butt of his M-16 into one and tumbles into the dirt.

*San Antonio Express News*

**PAGE: Internet**

**POSTED: 13 Mar 06**



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 13 Mar 06

---

"I'm really for any kind of training that keeps me alive," said Guillory, 23, of Lake Charles, La. "Any type of training that will allow me to go overseas and come back and be able to be with my wife and my family is fine by me."

*San Antonio Express News*  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**POSTED: 13 Mar 06**



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 13 Mar 06

### Randolph to land more pilots, jobs

Web Posted: 03/13/2006 12:00 AM CST

**Sig Christenson**  
**Express-News Military Writer**

The Air Force will shift a big portion of its pilot training from a Georgia installation to five bases, three of them in Texas and one of those in San Antonio.

Driven by last year's base closure round, the move will bring 393 military and civilian jobs to Texas, Oklahoma and Mississippi over the next two years.

It's the largest realignment in the Air Education and Training Command since the shutdown of Lubbock's Reese AFB a decade ago, an AETC spokesman said.

The realignment could be bolstered by a possible increase in the number of new pilots. Currently, the Air Force graduates about 1,100 a year.

That's still being sorted out.

"Is 1,100 pilots the right number? I will tell you there are some who think it is too low, that we need more pilots," said Gen. William R. Looney III, who heads AETC. "There are some who think it's too high."

As the Air Force debates, it is moving to comply with a mandate by the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (commonly referred to as BRAC) to shift 113 T-38C Talon and T-6A Texan II training aircraft from Moody AFB in Valdosta, Ga.

The planes, along with 368 officers and enlistees, 25 civilians and an unspecified number of contractors, will be split among Randolph AFB, home of the AETC, and four other bases: Laughlin AFB in Del Rio; Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls; Vance AFB in Enid, Okla.; and Columbus AFB, near Columbus, Miss. It is not clear how much each base will get in the split.

"We don't have that worked out yet," said AETC spokesman Dave Smith. "It may not be equal, but it will be whatever the bases can handle appropriately, and then they'll get the manpower they need to fulfill their mission."

Moody AFB trains novice pilots and runs a 40-day course, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, that comes after a pilot's first year.

The pilots are trained in the T-6A and T-38, a supersonic jet. Those making it through go on to fly the F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon.

BRAC ordered the training mission realignment after moving A-10 Thunderbolt attack planes from Pope AFB

#### Pilot Training

The move will bring 393 military and civilian jobs to Texas, Oklahoma and Mississippi over the next two years. Currently, the Air Force graduates about 1,100 new pilots a year. The planes, along with 368 officers and enlistees, 25 civilians and an unspecified number of contractors, will be split among Randolph AFB, Laughlin AFB and three other bases. BRAC said the realignment would save the Air Force \$174.2 million over 20 years. BRAC said San Antonio could lose as many as 1,079 jobs from 2006 to 2011, or 0.1 percent of the area's work force. Valdosta, Ga., would lose 1,170 jobs over the same period, 1.77 percent of its area workers.

***San Antonio Express News***

**PAGE: Internet**

**POSTED: 13 Mar 06**



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 13 Mar 06

---

in North Carolina and Eielson AFB in Alaska. Twenty-eight of those planes, and their support personnel, are expected to go to Moody.

BRAC said the move would increase training at Moody, where Army and Special Forces units work. It also said the realignment would save the Air Force \$174.2 million over 20 years.

But it comes as a blow to Valdosta, a city of 44,500 just north of the Florida state line. President Bush received his wings from his father in a ceremony there.

"We are really sad to see the training squadron go," Valdosta Mayor John J. Fretti said, adding the decision will hurt the local economy. "These folks would come in and maybe buy a car."

BRAC's order sends part of Moody's novice flight training to Laughlin, Vance and Columbus. Fighter fundamentals training will move to Randolph, Laughlin, Sheppard, Vance and Columbus.

Randolph will see a return of Introduction to Fighters Fundamentals for instructors. It moved to Moody several years ago.

The economic impact isn't yet clear, but BRAC said San Antonio could lose as many as 1,079 jobs from 2006 to 2011, or 0.1 percent of the area's work force. Valdosta would lose 1,170 jobs over the same period, 1.77 percent of its area workers.

"I couldn't tell you how important it is in itself, but it seems to me that when you get something like that coming to San Antonio, in addition to whatever benefit you get from that one particular move, it just leads to other things," former Mayor Howard Peak said.





# AETC News Clips

## Altus AFB, Okla.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 13 Mar 06

# Fears spread with fires

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —** Several residents of Carney were evacuated Sunday as a wind-fueled wildfire burned thousands of acres across Oklahoma.

Firefighters in Lincoln County struggled Sunday with not only the Carney fire, but also a fire in Chandler, said Ben Springfield, Lincoln County Emergency Management director. Resources were spread thin among the two fires, which allowed for the fire in south Carney city limits to come within less than a quarter-mile of several homes.

Springfield credited area fire crews with saving homes in the fire's path.

"They're local firefighters," he said. "That's their community they're fighting for. They'll do what they can to protect it."

Firefighters at the state's incident command post in Shawnee responded to six wildfires, including a 1,000-acre blaze near El Reno that threatened several structures and continued to burn Sunday evening, said fire information officer Koshare Lomnicki.

High winds pushed smoke from the fire across the metro area, resulting in hundreds of calls to the

Oklahoma City Fire Department, fire officials said. Fires in the Lawton area, too, brought calls of concern to the Lawton Fire Department.

Two grass fires were reported near Cordell in Washita County, and two separate fires near Altus in Harmon County prompted officials at Altus Air Force Base to evacuate part of the base.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs responded to a 1,500-acre grass fire near Pawhuska that threatened several homes, Lomnicki said.

Other fires were reported near Weatherford and Walters.

Oklahoma saw a mix of weather conditions Sunday, with thunderstorms and a tornado watch in eastern sections of the state and drv.

"The words of wisdom today were to be prepared for anything," Lomnicki said. "East of the dryline, we have moisture and thunderstorms, and then west of that has been where the fire activity has been."

Sustained winds of up to 35 miles per hour were reported in Oklahoma, with gusts up to 40 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

*The Altus Times*

PAGE:

DATE: 13 Mar 06